432 Sqdn., 17th Bomb. Gp.
A.P.O. 650, % Postmaster N.Y.C.
February 10, 1944

Hiya, Folks,-

Just a few lines.- Have been very, very busy lately - and I'm tireder than all get out!- Shall we say - been away on business - and living on my wits?-

Got home today and found quite a bit of mail.- Both V-mails and a regular letter written by Ma!- Guess I really rate, huh? So here I am - dashing off a few lines - then going to cook a couple of eggs and then to sack! Don't know for sure but got a sneaking idea I'm to go on a trip tomorrow, too, so need all the rest I can get.-

Saw a very pretty sight today - and one I wish I had a picture of. I'll get one of it before I leave for home.- but

from present indications - will have ample time for that! - Flew right over Mt. Vesuvius - I mean right over it, too. - Have often seen it, but today decided to get a real look at it so passed withing a hundred feet of the crater itself! - Quite an awe inspiring sight - and a pretty one, too! - It's funny, having read of all these places - and seeing them too. - Often times we never think anything about it, but at others, we go deliberately out of our way to satisfy our curiosity. -

Mt. Vesuvius must be about 4000' high - not near so big as Mt. Etna - and the crater itself is actually not quite so big as might be imagined. - Several hundred feet down the slope there is a sorta cup & saucer arrangement - not noticable from the ground - and all about the "saucer" the rock seems to be smoking. - The crater itself emits

3! a belch of flame ever so often and is always smoking. - at night you can see the red glow of it for miles and see the tongue of flame shoot out as it belches. - It has spells - sometimes more fierce than others. - ~~to~~ the night I saw it - people said it was quiet - at that time we could only see the glow of it! - Again, it's a case where nature makes man made things look inconspicuous! - The view I had from above, looking down in it, is unusual, and I guess of the millions who have seen it - there are only the airmen who can get the real chance!

Am enclosing a couple of ~~s~~ snap-shots one of the fellows took. Can't see much of "me", but if you really look hard - I'm there! - One is taken in front of the Red Cross Club in Tunis as we sat in a truck waiting to go "home". I'm the one on the right - (nearest the curb + camera). The other one was

taken in the Kasbar or Medina (native quarter). I hope you can tell which is me without my pointing out.- The kids are Arabs who followed us around.- Ed Bigelow took the picture.- I had just taken one of him taking this.- It was so funny to see him (he's about 6'4") surrounded with these kids.- It's unusual to see the arabs without the Arabic dress. Guess these kids get most of their clothes from the French + U.S. of the city.- They are a better class, tho, for as I recall,- they had just gotten out of school- where most of them never go.- They usually start out as mere babies- learning their father's trade, if any..

Well.- It's off to bed - or at least to the "stove" with me and cook some eggs,- so 'bye for now + Lots of

Love,

Frank

Keep 'em crossed!